

MARYLAND GAZETTE

T H U R S D A Y, DECEMBER 6, 1781.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE:

To Sir HENRY CLINTON, K. B.

SIR,

ADVICE is never attended to with more avidity, than when applied to a man—who hath smarted by his errors. To men of common good understanding, misfortune is a school of wisdom. By a severe, though wholesome lecture, the unclouds the peculiar medium of individuals, through which human affairs are viewed; and it is in the school of this rugged preceptress, the great learn the beauties of wisdom, and the little and the weak taught the folly of despising her. It is there a man is the most judicious critic on his life, and forms a true estimate of things, when the passions, destitute of the means of gratification, drop the pleasing mask of delusion.

To insult the misfortunes of the amiable—and deserving, is the hellish pleasure of a fiend, and is a most daring challenge to the caprice of fortune; but you Sir Henry, if I mistake not, possess in your temper a security against the stings of censure, for I believe none are less galled by her public lash, than those who have long deserved it. It would be difficult to wound the feelings of a man—who hath long been a stranger to the meltings of sensibility, and who hath so notoriously in his office, proved paramount to the sacred rights of human nature, and citizenship.

Had you a common share of sensibility Sir Henry, you would find the tortures of mortification disturbed your peace; but allowing you the small degree of feeling which you have been heir to, sympathy with a brother officer will for an interval of abandonment, lend you a foretaste of those sensations, which are long a situation similar to that of the ill-starred earl—may more fully realize. Every reflection which tells you—that you are supreme in command, must make you sensible that as an officer—delivered to the glories of conquest, you are unfortunate! A supine indifference, plots ingendered in the wilderness of fancy and pride, which were rendered abortive merely by the republican virtue of American peasants, and for your interests, terminating in the most tragical manner—have given no very flattering traits to the history of your supreme command. In your southern, more extensive views—you have been not less disappointed, where the incoherency of frenzy-formed enterprises—instead of the harmony of a whole well digested design—bath stamped the impressions of despair in the result of all your undertakings. During your whole command Sir Henry, not an event on whole issue, you had, an instance hath taken place, but what must for ever associate with your character, the ideas of error—miscarriage, and defeat!

That lucrative spirit of supine delay, which may be called the genius of a British commander in chief, had not as yet smothered the fire of soldiership in your heart, when the small but gallant garrison of Charles-town, were deemed objects worthy of your ambition. You sailed against Charles-town, and though crowned with a dear bought victory, found your laurels too severely scorched, to promise their possessor a lasting verdure. You must confess Sir Henry—a fatality attends all your designs, when, in the very scheme you so ardently patronized, and whose execution hath proved so costly, you were, but laying the groundwork of a triumph to the allied arms! Under the flattering idea of an established fame, you retired from that scene and left to the care of an inferior officer of superior talents, the promotion of your imaginary greatness. You then tasted the sweets of supremacy, and since that period the world have heard little else from Sir Henry Clinton, than through the channel of his proclamations.

Whether the idea of a southern war, originated in the brain of your ministry or your own, we cannot determine. We must thank, though we cannot compliment the source of so stupid a design. Let it have originated with either, you Sir have by this time had leisure to contemplate in detail—its numerous advantages, and plume yourself on participating as a conspicuous promoter of it, in the glory which its completion reflects on the British nation.

However destitute of genius a man himself may be, there is a degree of reputation to be acquired, by discovering it in others. Have then the prudence to confess the grandeur of a late design which you could not penetrate, for the evidence of your senses, is superior to your pride as an Englishman.

Confess that as you were deficient in that largeness of mind, which at one view comprehends the most intricate system of operation, so were you wanting in that fertility of invention which abounds in the happiest expedients. The sophistry of pride may hitherto have deluded you into visionary expectations of conquest, and vanity over-rated your abilities; but this last master piece of generalship in the great Washington, is a blow that must have roused you from such ebriety of folly, and afforded a proof of his military logic—whose force of conclusion, you Sir Henry—can neither endure or dispute.

Never, you must confess Sir, was there a plan conceived with more depth of professional wisdom, than that to which Lord Cornwallis owes his captivity; and surely, never was an enterprise of such extensive, and contingent a nature, adopted with more intuitive discernment, or executed with more precision, coincidence of action, and complete success. America beheld the spectacle with an anxious concern, and also her passions which motives of patriotism had deeply interested in its decision, have been amply indulged in its success. If not decisive in her favour, she knew a favourable issue, must prove accelerative of that independence for which she hath willingly and profusely bled. The solid benefits which she derives from this event, throw on it the splendour of true glory, while the action in itself confers on the particular actors, the laurels of conquerors.

If in an unexpected interval of political lunacy, you should ever be interrogated Sir Henry—with parliamentary whys, and wherefores, let a corrupt depravity and obsequiousness to courtiership, so far for once temper with your honesty, as to enable you, boldly to make the notoriety of national poverty, and the experienced invincibility of the Americans, the heads of your exculpatory speech. All the world will discover that the circumstances which palliated, where they directed, the conduct of the gallant general Burgoyne, want the same influence in their judgments, when applied to the case of Lord Cornwallis. Nationally considered, there admits not a comparison in the disgrace, with which in the eyes of all Europe, these two captive armies have tarnished the arms, and wounded the pride of your haughty nation. The one had not fulfilled his enterprise; the other was defeated, by being too successful. The local situation of their respective armies, rendered the succours which their necessities pressed for, different in their mode of conveyance. Destitute of naval co-operations, general Burgoyne's army was made an easy prey to men, who to be victorious, desire but an equal footing with those whom they oppose. Lord Cornwallis, clad with the applauses of a ministry who already anticipated the fruits of his activity, and conduct on which they could fully rely, pushed with the rapidity of confidence, to a position, in whole local, and natural advantages, he flattered himself a junction of his army, and marine powers, might operate with vigour. He gained his object; but here the inferiority of his expected fleets, the superiority of which hath been deemed the palladium of your island, succeeded by a superior allied army, terminated his gaudy expectations in the surrender of his army by the capitulation of York!

When his lordship sat down in York, he found within the limits of his situation, every local circumstance that could flatter, or support his first expectations: here his army, for a moment parted from the fatigues of rapine, and his lordship made some efforts of farther enterprise; when the illustrious chief of America, put in motion the wheels of a design, too refined for his detection, but whose effects have proved as visible as the day. Though the naval victory of the count de Grasse was irretrievably complete, his account of his victory, proves his just estimation of the favours of fortune, while the great regard he pays to the feelings of the vanquished—evinces the generosity of his soul. This Sir Henry should polish the manners, while it corrects the prejudices of your nation, and while the count de Grasse teaches your officers how to gain victories, let them—by imitating farther his example, learn how to acquire glory. Let their pens be exercised in the language of generosity. Let them do justice to an enemy whom they may fight, but whom they cannot hate, or despise.

Permit me once more Sir Henry to attend particularly to yourself, though digressions perhaps may be your eye, form the most pleasing parts of this letter. Where were you—and what schemes of immortal duration were you forming, when general

Washington was preparing for the siege of New-York. Your ministry ordered you to bring if possible general Washington to a general, and as they ignorantly presumed, decisive engagement. Such an event might have inspired the conversation of your court, and by exercising the invention of fertile venality—given you temporary eclat in the dispatches of your pufflers. Such an eccentric dart from your accustomed uniformity of dullness, would have been a variation of conduct, that might have drawn once more the eyes of the world upon a character, (for a second period) whose lines they discovered at first sight to be so infinitely legible.

But there was in the aversion, to which as commander in chief you succeeded, a security against the hostile activity of a soldier; a dilatory mode of offence, which, as we knew you possessed both the power, and inclination of an enemy, rendered your character—and exertions merely the subject of suspicion.

Safe from surprise behind your strong fortifications, you indulged yourself in the security with which nature had guarded the place of your residence—since she had not blessed you with a capacity equal to the designs of your enemy. Under the influence of a principle more modernly fashionable, than that which moved the operations of your glorious opponent, you prudently relinquished the toys of ambition to your inferior officers; and secure in the emoluments of office, you despised the tinsel of fame while a golden harvest invited your grasp: this, from your knowledge of those springs which elevate the great, you knew would gain you the rewards—without tempting you through the rugged task of valour.

You are better acquainted Sir Henry with the temper of your nation at present than I possibly can be: you know their sanguine expectations, and can best conceive the effects which your dispatches will create in their minds. The flock must be proportioned to their elevation, and from every circumstance of intelligence, we may believe their circle of expectation included the final subjugation of the five southern states. The poignancy of their sensations will be equalled, but by the height of their misfortunes when your dispatches arrive, and fully descriptive, shall confirm to the world the visibility of the British fleets. The poverty, and decline of your nation, will in the eyes of all, be intimately involved with the contemplation of this event. The declension of the greatest empires—which employ the philosophic genius of history, proves that "there is a tide" in the greatest, and grandeur of nations, as well as in the affairs of men: Britain is on the rapid ebb, and by taking her place amongst the list of once famous empires who have sunk down the wheel of time, she will make this age a memorable era to posterity. Like a decayed beauty she may still retain the love of conquest, and submission, but like her, must expect the mortification of disappointment. Her exertions in this war, tho' violent for her decayed constitution, bear in their result all the unavailing impotence of old age, without its wisdom. Your ministry may once more charm up the semblance of the British lion, but the world will instantly perceive the usurpation of the throne.

Like a man whose pride is greater than his understanding, your nation will be the last one in Europe that will discover her weakness. Too eager to admit an interval of reflection, it enters with the warmth of passion, rather than the deliberation of judgment, into all its favourite pursuits: from an impatience of temper that acts with earnestness, but with momentary impulses, it provided not the means by which an end is to be obtained, with that concatenation of events, that form the very soul of politics—which act with a slow, but successful energy. From that warmth of complexion which marks the character of your people with a spirit so restless, arises a credulity equally defective, to which they are made dupes, by the false intelligence of those who find it lucrative to deceive them. The body of your nation are I believe possessed of sense enough to retract from a demand, prejudicial error, but its history proves the theory that they were never yet saved from a precipice by instinct.

The channel of all the official information that amuse your misled sovereign, and act like a burning opiate on the credulity of your country, must be traced to none other than the source of truth, the commander in chief. The interest is plain.

The time of your departure for England, is now so near. For God's sake, and your own

See Sir Henry by one negative virtue, the remains of your character, and your country; and let the happy consequences of this one, console your heart. I want of those active properties of a soldier, which nature hath denied you. Be candid. In the sincerest manner declare, convince them by the reasonings of experience, the most authoritative language of wisdom, convince them of the injustice, impracticability, impolicy, and madness of attempting the subjection of this country; teach them this important truth, and though Sir Henry Clinton proved unequal to the conquest of America, he may be saluted the great preserver of Britain.

REPUBLICANUS.

Maryland, Nov. 27, 1781.

BOSTON, November 13.

A GENTLEMAN arrived in this town last Monday from Charles-town, (S. C.) where he had for some time been a prisoner on parole, which place he left the 11th of last month; by him we learn, that the British suffered greatly in the late action between them and General Greene, and that their loss was not less than 1200 killed, wounded and prisoners. This gentleman saw six vessels loaded with wounded men come down the river, and were landed at Charles-town soon after the engagement; he further adds, that there were not more than 200 troops, including British and Hessians, in Charles-town, and those were all ordered to Monk's-corner, except a few Hessians; the inhabitants were all obliged to do duty in the city; they were all in expectation of being attacked by General Greene; the merchants were disposing of their effects as fast as possible; vendues were plenty, but purchasers scarce; when he left that city, General Greene lay about three miles from Monk's-corner, as he was informed by some of the people who came from that place.

When the vessels last arrived from France left that kingdom, the prevailing reports from persons of good authority were, that all apprehensions respecting the cause of the allies in the present war, arising from the death of the late empress of Germany, and the views of the imperial court were now over; the emperor having been in France three months, and secretly settled with his Most Christian Majesty all material points concerning the general arrangement of affairs; that though it was prudent in the late situation of affairs for France to keep a very large part of her forces at home, and ready for any contingency, yet now all matters being amicably adjusted with the only power that Britain had any hopes of employing in her favour, it was in the power of France greatly to augment her force in America; accordingly it was said that a large body of troops were destined to be embarked for these coasts, and might in no great length of time be expected here.

On Tuesday last Captain Collier arrived at Salem, in 34 days from Nantes. The letters are not yet come to town; but by a gentleman who came passenger in this vessel we are informed, that the Spaniards continue vigorously to push the siege of Gibraltar; that the forces which were employed for the reduction of Minorca, after possessing themselves of the whole island, to the environs of St. Philips, had carried their approaches very near that fortress, and cut off the water from the garrison, which it was expected would soon surrender. That the combined fleet having cruised for some time in the channel, where no British Squadron had ventured to face it, at length separated; the French returning to Brest, and the Spanish ships to Cadiz.

FISH-KILL, November 22.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman near the lines.

"I have the pleasure to forward the account of an instance of partisan bravery on the coast, which, though it may have its equal, is seldom exceeded. "On the morning of the 15th inst. a party consisting of about 20 continental troops, under the command of lieutenant de Forest, one of the Connecticut line; and 15 volunteers under Captain Lockwood, late of the continental army, with lieutenants Hull and Mead, went on board a small unarmed vessel which lay in East-Chester bay, and made chase after a fleet which appeared off between them and Long-Island. They came up with a privateer well equipped, mounting 12 carriage guns, figured by a strong netting, 22 feet in height above her gunwale, with 25 regular troops on board, of the regiment of Anspach, armed with spears for their defence. On seeing her strength and equipment, they found there was no other way to reduce her, but by the closest action; they accordingly threw their little vessel along side of her, and commenced the attack, and with that determined bravery which knows no repulse, in the space of a few minutes, with their knives and bayonets, made themselves a passage through her netting, and properly vindicated their superiority. Unfortunately lieutenant Mead, (who like the true soldier, was among the foremost on board) received a wound,

which it is feared is mortal. Several others of the party, the captain of the privateer and four others of the crew, were also wounded.

"In the time of the attack, some boats, who were also of the party, under Captain Jones, and Mr. Mattheis, took six of the convoy, two of which were ransomed; the rest, with the privateer, are arrived in Stamford harbour.

"Though this is an instance of the polite warfare, yet the difficulty of the object, compared with the situation of the assailants, does no less honour to the individuals in point of reputation as soldiers; and shews that they share the same spirit of military ardour and enterprise, which has crowned us with the successes and expectations of the present day."

PHILADELPHIA, November 24.

Thursday last the schooner Neptune, captain l'Allement, arrived here from Cadiz, after a passage of 70 days. She confirms the accounts (given in our paper of Tuesday last) of the Spanish armament destined for the reduction of the island of Minorca, having taken possession of the whole of the said island except the principal fortress of St. Philips, into which the garrison had with much precipitation retired, and it was expected must shortly submit, as they were not prepared for such a sudden attack.

Nov. 27. Yesterday afternoon his excellency the commander in chief, with his lady, arrived in town from Virginia. In the evening the bells were rung, and other demonstrations of joy were shewn by people of all ranks.

Office for confiscated estates, Annapolis, November 27, 1781.

TO be sold at vendue, the following property on the eastern shore, to wit: The several manors, in Kent, Queen-Anne's, Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester counties; also two lots and houses, two negroes, and other personal estate in the town of Oxford, in Talbot county, which belonged to Spiers, Mackie, and company, and Spiers, French, and company.

The sale of Kent manor will begin at Chester-town, on Monday the 7th of January next.

Queen-Anne's manor, at Church-hill, in Queen-Anne's county, on Monday the 24th of January next.

The houses and lots, and other property, which belonged to Spiers, Mackie, and company, &c. at Oxford, in Talbot county, on Friday the 18th of January next.

Nanticoke manor, at Vienna, in Dorchester county, on Monday the 21st of January next.

The manor lands in Somerset and Worcester, at Salisbury, on Friday the 25th of January next.

The whole sold for specie, or bills of credit emitted the 10th of May, 1781, to the actual value thereof. One third of the sum bid to be paid on the first day of September next, and the residue in two equal and annual payments thereafter. The purchasers giving bond on interest with two good securities.

2 JO. BAXTER, clk.

Prince-George's county, November 13, 1781. To be sold at public sale, in Piscataway, on Tuesday the 18th of December next, for crop tobacco in notes of not less than 250 act, nor older than twelve months.

THE estate of Dr. Joseph Adderton, deceased, consisting of sundry negroes, men, women, and children, also horses, hogs, sheep, and cattle, together with a variety of household furniture. Credit will be given for twelve months, on giving bond with good security, the interest to commence from the end of six months. At the same time will be sold for ready cash, the corn, tobacco, and small grain on the plantation.

2 W3

November 28, 1781. To be sold, on Wednesday the 25th of December, to the highest bidder, at Bellair in Prince-George's county,

A VALUABLE brood mare, with a very fine colt by her side, got by Sweeper. Also a very fine stone colt, rising two years old, got by Sweeper, out of a three quarter blooded mare, he is equal in size and figure to any colt in the state of his blood. Likewise a fine cow with calf, by a remarkable large Rhode-Island bull. There will be sold at the same time a quantity of wearing apparel, all very good, and many other things, too tedious to mention, being the late property of Felter Lautenburgher, deceased. The sale to be for specie. Three months credit will be given, if required, on giving bond with security.

2 X SUSANNA LAUTENBURGER.

A FEW copies of the LAWS of MARYLAND, passed last session of assembly, may be had at the Printing-office.

THIRTY SHILLINGS REWARD STOLEN or STRAYED from the pasture of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, King & Queen counties, about 4 years last past, now 13 hands high, black and white, branded on the lower buttock with shoulder OC, trot and gallop, has on no mane. Whoever will bring said mare to the subscriber, Mr. Carroll's quarter near Annapolis, shall receive the above reward with thanks.

JAMES SEARS. N. B. The mare may not be perceived as it is but flight.

TAKEN by John Brown, within nine miles of Annapolis, a torrel mare, about 13 hands high, a natural pacer, no brand, has a star in her forehead and a small blaze about mid-way her face, white hind legs, long switch tail, and her mane hangs on the near side. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

A PERSON, well recommended, capable of teaching the Latin and English languages, will meet with encouragement by applying to JOHN FERRY, FRANCIS WHEATLY, Charles county.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber intends to petition the general assembly of Maryland, at their next session, to make over to him a tract of land called Hardesty, being near Hunting-town, now in the possession of Joseph Hall.

GABRIEL CHILDS.

Alexandria, November 12, 1781. Will be sold to the highest bidder, on Wednesday the 19th of December next, if fair, it not the next fair day, at the subscriber's plantation near Piscataway in Maryland,

TWENTY-FIVE likely young country born NEGROES, consisting of men, women, and children. It is necessary to observe, that these negroes are sold for no fault, and that they are equal to any negroes in the state; amongst whom are several likely young breeding women, well acquainted with cooking and all kind of house work. Also at the same time and place will be sold, horses, hogs, sheep, and cattle, of the very best kind, together with all kinds of plantation utensils. The above will be sold for ready tobacco or twelve months credit at the option of the purchaser; if the latter, to be on bond with security. I have likewise to let, two very valuable plantations on Patowmack river, sufficient for ten or twelve hands to work, on which is sowed 25 bushels of small grain. On one of the said plantations is a very commodious and well fixed distillery, calculated for either brewing or distilling, with several fine stills and a large iron boiler, which I will run or sell with the plantation. The terms may be known by applying to

4 W5 WILLIAM LYLES, jun.

Port-Tobacco, November 7, 1781. To be sold by the subscriber, living near Port-Tobacco, in Charles county, on Monday the tenth of December next, at public sale,

SUNDRY articles of household furniture, and plantation utensils, a single chair or salkey, in tolerable good repair, a very good collection of books chiefly on divinity, seventy or eighty barrels of Indian corn, a considerable quantity of cotton, and a few neat cattle. The greater part of the above articles will be sold for tobacco, either ready down, or on six months credit with interest, as may best suit the purchasers; but the chair, and a few other small articles, will be sold for ready cash, and half to be paid in specie, and the other in paper money at the passing value.

W3 X JOANNA HAMILTON.

By the COMMITTEE of GRISVANCE and COVAT of JUSTICE, November 27, 1781.

NOTICE is hereby given, that this committee will sit at the Court-house from 10 o'clock till 3 on each day during the present session of assembly.

2 By order, GEO. RANKEN, clk.

Annapolis, November 27, 1781. **A** NY person of a good character, who will go to Hanover court-house in Virginia, and bring from thence a couple of negroes belonging to the subscriber, and deliver them to her, shall be entitled to a reasonable reward, and may keep in plantation on the north side of South river as a security till the money be paid; or they may enter on it, and have the use of the fire-arms until by their means the debt be discharged.

2 ANNE TILLY.

ALMANACKS for the year of our Lord 1782, may be had at the printing-office.